What is claimed is:

1. A method for supporting a clinical action to be ordered by a clinician, the method comprising:

receiving a request for an order from the clinician;

determining a clinical context of the order;

presenting practice information to the clinician, based on the clinical context, describing a pre-determined practice method for executing the clinical action; and

generating an order for the clinical action based on input from the clinician with respect to the practice information.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving a request for an order from the clinician further comprises:

receiving the request for an order in clinical shorthand.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said generating an order for the clinical action further comprises:

generating a natural-language version of the order with detail required for implementation.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining a clinical context of the order further comprises:

presenting high-probability choices for the clinical context based on the request for the order.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said presenting practice information to the clinician further comprises:

presenting links to decision-support information

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the practice information includes pertinent current medical research information.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the practice information includes patient-specific information.

8. A system for receiving order information from a clinician and generating an order based thereon, the system comprising:

an order-entry subsystem operable to receive an order request from the clinician; and

a best-practice subsystem operable to determine a clinical context for the order and provide pre-determined practice information for enacting the order, based on the clinical context.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the order-entry subsystem receives the order request in clinical shorthand.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the best-practice subsystem is further operable to receive input from the clinician for selecting order characteristics from the practice information.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the best-practice subsystem further comprises:

a decision support subsystem operable to provide links to relevant data that assists the clinician in selecting the order characteristics.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the relevant data is patient-specific data.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the relevant data presents current research findings.

14. An article of manufacture, which comprises a computer readable medium having stored therein a computer program carrying out a method for generating medical orders, the computer program comprising:

a first code segment for presenting high-probability action choices to a clinician based on an order request entered by the clinician;

a second code segment for presenting high-probability clinical context choices to the clinician based on an action chosen by the clinician;

a third code segment for presenting practice methods based on a clinical context chosen by the clinician; and

a fourth code segment for generating the medical order based on a practice method chosen by the clinician.

15. The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the first code segment receives the order request in clinical shorthand and the fourth code segment generates a natural-language version of the medical order.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the third code segment further presents decision-support data for assisting the clinician in choosing from among the practice methods presented.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the decision support data includes patient-specific data.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the decision support data includes current medical information.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the third code segment presents the decision support data by providing links to thereto during presentation of the practice methods.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the decision support data includes administratively-defined prerogatives.